




City of Loma Linda Official Report

Karen Gaio Hansberger, Mayor
Floyd Petersen, Mayor pro tempore
Robert Christman, Councilmember
Stan Brauer, Councilmember
Robert Ziprick, Councilmember

COUNCIL AGENDA: September 14, 2004
TO: City Council
VIA: Dennis R. Halloway, City Manager
FROM: Rolland M. Crawford, Director of Public Safety/Fire Chief 
SUBJECT: Authorization to Participate in Discoveries Project

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council: Authorize an agreement (subcontract) with Loma Linda University Medical Center to participate in the Discoveries Project.

BACKGROUND

Due to the efforts of Representative Jerry Lewis, Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC) has received Congressionally mandated grant funding through the Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center, a branch of the Department of Defense, to participate in a research and development project known as the "Discoveries Project." During the life of the project, which extends through September of 2005, several significant steps will be accomplished: the creation of a Center for Prehospital Care, Education and Research (in place), the creation of an integrated prehospital and hospital-based data collection system, the creation of a regional telemedicine command center and network, and a study of the medical and economic value of a regional telemedicine network.

The Discoveries Project is to act as a test bed for the US Government in the development of protocols for outcomes-based analysis of emergency medical services (EMS). Our Fire & Rescue Division has been asked to participate in field EMS data collection. Using notebook computers, paramedics will collect specific patient data while at the scene of emergency medical incidents. Periodically, the data will be uploaded into the database at LLUMC, along with data collected by the Colton, San Bernardino City and County Fire Departments, and AMR and Simons (covering Inyo and Mono Counties) ambulance companies. Analysis will be under the supervision of Dr. Jeff Grange, MD, Principal Investigator, with the coordination of Jeff Bender RN, Project Manager.

ANALYSIS

Given the fact that LLUMC is the designated Base Hospital for our Firefighter/Paramedic program, and the fact that our Firefighter/Paramedics have a close working relationship with Dr. Grange and the staff at the Emergency Department, participation in the Discoveries Project is a logical fit for our Department. Our involvement will actually dramatically increase our own ability to analyze data relating to the efficacy of our fire-based paramedic program. In addition, the notebook computers will become our property upon conclusion of the grant-funded project.

AGENDA ITEM 15

ENVIRONMENTAL

None.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The grant funding provides our Department with three Panasonic Toughbook notebook computers for use in data collection and transmission at no cost to the City. Upon completion of the grant study period, the computers will become the property of the City, if we so choose to accept them. In order to facilitate the transfer of data, a dedicated telephone circuit will need to be established between the Civic Center/Fire Station and Comm Center, at an annual cost of approximately \$2500. This connection is actually needed for our day-to-day operations, since it will provide a link that will allow the direct transfer of data pertaining to incident run reports (from/to CAD), which will significantly reduce the time spent in filling out incident reports in the Sunpro RMS. In return, the value of the three Panasonic computers and related appurtenances will more than out way the expense for the recurring circuit cost.